

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a cytolethal distending toxin, which is any one of:
  - (a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
  - (b) a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequences of position 1 to 777 in the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;
  - (c) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence with a substitution, deletion, addition, and/or insertion of one to 30 amino acids in the amino acid ~~sequences~~ sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
  - (d) a polynucleotide that hybridizes under a stringent condition of 1x SSC, 0.1% SDS, and 37°C to DNA comprising the nucleotide ~~sequences~~ sequence of position 1 to 777 in the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
2. (Original) A vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 1.
3. (Original) A host cell containing the polynucleotide of claim 1 or the vector of claim 2.
4. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide having cytolethal distending toxin activity, which is selected from the group consisting of:
  - (a) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:2;
  - (b) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence with a substitution, deletion, addition, and/or insertion of one to 30 amino acids in ~~any one of~~ the amino acid ~~sequences~~ sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
  - (c) a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
5. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a cytolethal distending toxin, which comprises the step of culturing the host cell of claim 3 and collecting the produced polypeptide from the host cell or the culture supernatant.

6. – 30. (Canceled)